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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of:

Schultz

: Art Unit: 3672

Serial No. 10/035,350

: Examiner: Dang, Hoang C.

Filed: 10/26/2001

: Atty's Docket: SC-00-12

For: Mean Strain Ratio Analysis Method and System for Detecting Drill Bit
Failure and Signaling Surface Operator

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

The accompanying form PTO- 1449 lists one or more documents which may be considered material to the examination of this application. A copy of each document is provided, if available.

Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed documents should they be applied thereagainst as references, and/or to prove that some of these documents may not be prior art, may not be within an analogous field of art, and/or may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, nor that more material information does not exist.

The Examiner is specifically requested to conduct an independent and thorough review of the documents, and to form his own opinions as to the significance of those documents to patentability of the claimed inventions, regardless of any of the foregoing statements concerning the significance of the references. The foregoing statements are made in good faith, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure; but they cannot substitute for the Examiner's specialized expertise, nor are they intended to derogate from the Examiner's official duty to assess patentability.

It is also respectfully noted that the submission of this material is not intended to displace the Examiner's professional ability and duty to search. Indeed, the Examiner is specifically requested not to rely on the materials submitted herewith, but to conduct a full and independent search.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, to indicate in the file of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ngon Pham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ngon Pham, Reg. No. 49,042
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March 26, 2003